Appl. No. 10/825,971
Amdt. dated December 23, 2008
Reply to Office Action of November 26, 2008

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 9. (Canceled).

10.   (Original) A method for coordinating an Internet-based financial transaction between an Internet merchant and a customer, the method comprising:

receiving, with a payment network, a first information packet comprising an electronic file having encrypted content and transaction information specifying at least a cost of the Internet-based financial transaction;

decrypting the electronic file, with the payment network, to recover a primary account number ("PAN") that identifies a financial account maintained by the customer at a financial institution and to recover a personal identification number ("PIN") assigned to the customer for accessing the identified financial account;

generating, with the payment network, a second information packet comprising the transaction information, the PAN, and the PIN;

transmitting, with the payment network, the second information packet to the financial institution with a request to perform a debit transaction from the identified financial account for the specified cost of the Internet-based financial transaction;

receiving, with the payment network, a response from the financial institution indicating approval or denial of the debit transaction;

determining, with the payment network, whether to provide a guarantee of the Internet-based transaction to the Internet merchant;

determining, with the payment network, whether to credit a loyalty program for the customer; and

transmitting, with the payment network, an authorization code indicating approval or denial of the Internet-based transaction.

11.   (Original) The method recited in claim 10 wherein:

the first information packet includes an identification of the Internet merchant;
and

determining whether to provide the guarantee of the Internet-based transaction
comprises determining whether the Internet merchant is one of an identified list of Internet
merchants who request guarantees of all Internet-based financial transactions.

12.   (Original) The method recited in claim 10 wherein determining whether to
provide the guarantee of the Internet-based transaction comprises determining whether the
transaction information is consistent with a predefined set of parameters.

13.   (Original) The method recited in claim 10 wherein the first information
packet further comprises a request from the Internet merchant for the guarantee of the Internet-
based transaction.

14. – 23. (Canceled).

24.   (Original) A payment network comprising:
a communications device;
a processor;
a storage device; and
a memory coupled with the processor, the memory comprising a computer-
readable medium having a computer-readable program embodied therein for directing operation
of the payment network, the computer-readable program including:
          instructions for receiving, with the communications device, a first
information packet from the Internet merchant, the first information packet comprising a
credential assigned to the customer and transaction information specifying at least a cost of the
Internet-based financial transaction;
          instructions for determining from the credential, with the processor,
account information that identifies a financial account maintained by the customer at a financial

institution and authorization information that allows debit access to the identified financial account;

instructions for generating, with the processor, a second information packet comprising the transaction information, the account information, and the authorization information;

instructions for transmitting, with the communications device, the second information packet to the financial institution with a request to perform a debit transaction from the identified financial account for the specified cost of the Internet-based financial transaction; and

~~The payment network recited in claim 14 wherein the computer-readable program further comprises~~ instructions for crediting, with the processor, a loyalty program for the customer in response to execution of the Internet-based financial transaction.

25.   (Canceled).